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## Economic Development Association of Alabama

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June 15, 2011

Chairman Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, District of Columbia, 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

AT&T's merger with T-Mobile USA, currently in docket 11-65, could result in improved technological abilities for businesses and developers throughout Alabama. In the interest of the membership of the Economic Development Association of Alabama, I ask that you and your colleagues serving on the Federal Communications Commission allow this transaction to proceed.

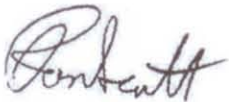
The EDAA, which represents economic development officials from around the state, was formed in the early 1960s by Alabama industrial developers. Their objective, in part, was to respond to the influx of Northern businesses relocating their manufacturing plants to Southern cities. We continue today to encourage both businesses relocating to our area and those already located here that wish to expand. With the help of reliable, widely-available broadband, we can successfully support and communicate more effectively with these companies. We can also offer them a better technology platform from which to do business.

More reliable broadband delivered through a faster network with greater overall capacity can also aid the EDAA in our training efforts. Our association leads in the creation of educational opportunities, including co-sponsoring Auburn University's Intensive Economic Development Training Course and being instrumental in the establishment of the

university's economic development graduate program. Students and trainers both can use broadband to enhance their experiences and ensure their success in programs like these.

In brief, EDAA strives to positively impact economic development throughout Alabama. With the help of improved wireless broadband coverage, we could do even more.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert McDowell", written in a cursive style.

Economic Development Association of Alabama

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn